

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15064 031440Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-10 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 /111 W

----- 014352

R 031420Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

KO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4350

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 15064

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER UR

SUBJ: ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF SOVIET TRAVEL CONTROL

REF: MOSCOW 14997 NOTAL

1. ON OCT. 23, CONGEN LENINGRAD OFFICER SHEEHAN MISSED TURN WHILE DRIVING BETWEEN LENINGRAD AND HELSINKI AFTER DARK IN SNOWSTORM, AND WAS STOPPED BY GAI AND ADVISED HE HAD ENTERED CLOSED ZONE. SHEEHAN WAS DETAINED APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES WHILE MILITARY OFFICER WAS CONTACTED AND AKT PREPARED. HE DECLINED TO SIGN AKT, AND WAS ESCORTED BACK TO ROAD AND ALLOWED TO CONTINUE. GAI AND MILITARY OFFICERS INVOLVED EXPRESSED AGREEMENT THAT ROAD AND VISIBILITY CONDITIONS WERE TERRIBLE.

2. COGEN SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED INCIDENT VERBALLY TO DEPUTY HEAD OF MFA DIPLOMATIC AGENCY IN LENINGRAD, Y.S. CHERNOV.

3. NOVEMBER 30 AMEMBASSY CONSOFF WAS CALLED TO MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION AND WAS READ FOLLOWING ORAL STATEMENT BY CHIEF WEST EUROPEAN/AMERICAN SECTION VASIL'YEV:

4. BEGIN QUOTE: I AM INSTRUCTED TO CALL ATTENTION EMBASSY TO FACT OF CRUDE VIOLATION OF RULES OF TRAVELING WITHIN
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 15064 031440Z

SOVIET UNION BY EMPLOYEE CONGEN IN LENINGRAD.

5. ON OCT. 23 CONGEN EMPLOYEE IN LENINGRAD DONAL SHEEHAN TRAVELING IN CAR D 04-337 FROM HELSINKI TO LENINGRAD AT 139 KILOMETERS ON THE EAST-VYBORG CHAUSSEE DEVIATED FROM THE ROUTE AND WENT 85 KILOMETERS DEEP INTO AN AREA CLOSED FOR VISITING BY FOREIGNERS. CONSEQUENTLY SHEEHAN WAS STOPPED BY GAI POST AND AN AKT WAS WRITTEN ON THE FACT OF VIOLATION. IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT PENETRATION BY SHEEHAN WAS COMPLETELY PREMEDITATED, AND WITH AN OBJECTIVE INCOMPATIBLE WITH HIS DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS. WE HOPE THAT MEASURES PRECLUDING SIMILAR ACTIONS IN THE FUTURE WILL BE TAKEN BY US EMBASSY. END QUOTE.

6. UNLESS INSTRUCED OTHERWISE EMBASSY WILL REPLY BY AFFIRMING THAT DEVIATION FROM MAIN ROAD WAS HONEST MISTAKE MADE IN DIFFICULT DRIVING CONDITIONS, AND STATING THAT SOVIET ALLEGATIONS ABOUT PREMEDIATED NATURE OF DEVIATION TOTALLY UNWARRANTED.
DUBS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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